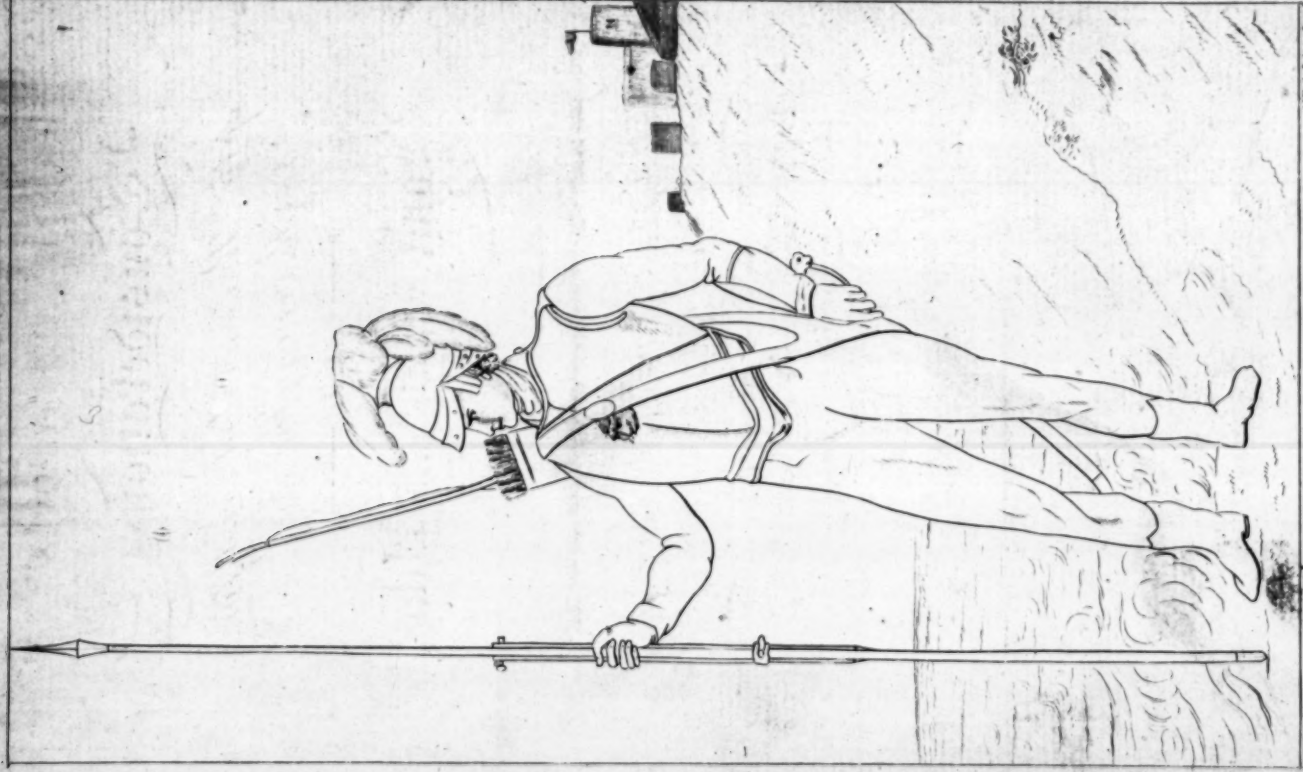
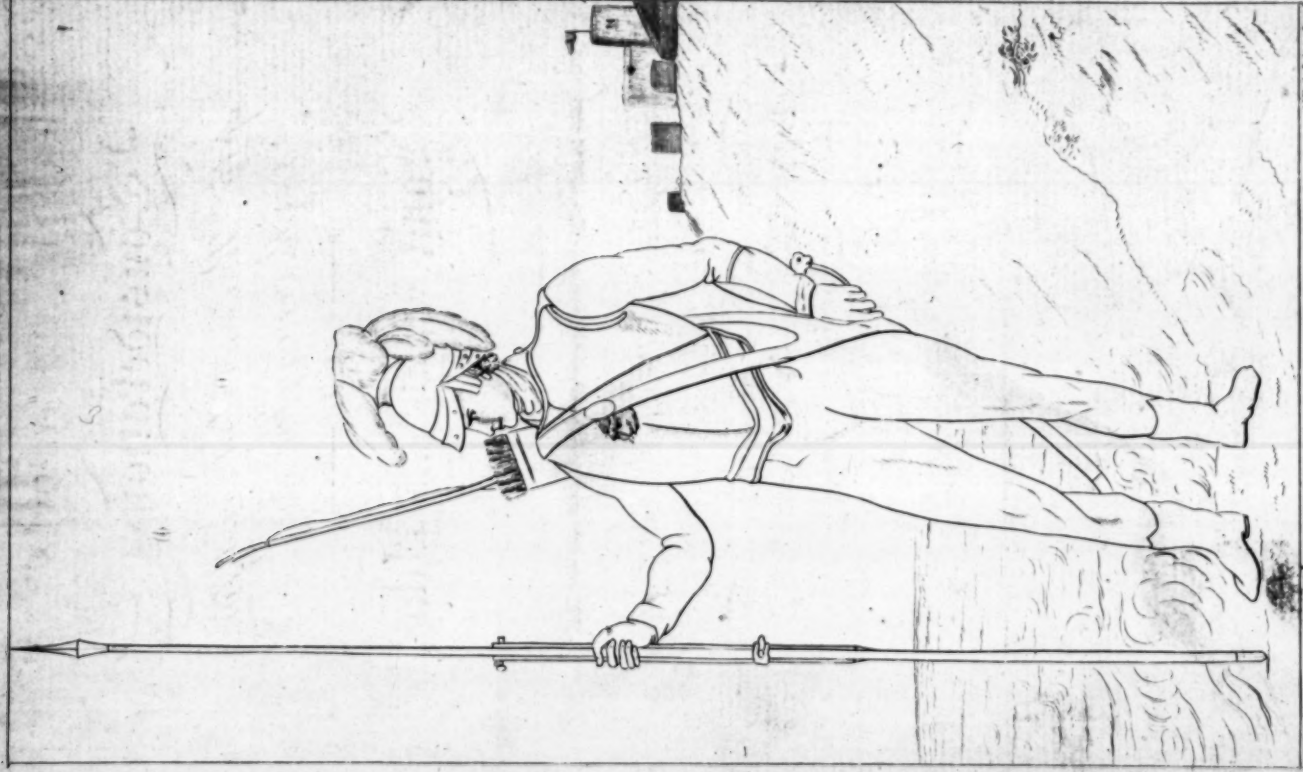


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The BRITISH ARCHER.

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The BRITISH ARCHER.

Feb 4 1798

“PRO ARIS et FOCIS”

# Considerations

of the Reasons that exist for  
Reviving the use

— OF THE —

Long Bow with the Pike

IN AID

of the Measures brought forward (by)

HIS MAJESTY'S MINISTERS

for the

DEFENCE of the COUNTRY

By

Rich<sup>d</sup>. Coward. Mason Esq<sup>r</sup>



LONDON,

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1798.

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*L. S. Banks 1799.*

TO THE

## BRITISH PUBLIC.

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AT the Voice of the Country in Danger, as it is the Duty of every one to contribute Exertion, when Property, Liberty and National Independence is so deeply menaced by an aspiring Enemy, I have been induced to bring forward, in this little Treatise, certain Ideas on a Subject, I have long thought might render essential Service. On Reflection of the Causes which principally gave rise to the overwhelming Military Power of France, which menaced with Subjection every State in Europe, it appeared to me attributable to the Number and Excellence of her Artillery, and to the new Tactics, which Fire Arms facilitate, of bringing forward Superiority of Number with great and certain Advantage; Means which are afforded the French from a great Population,

B

which

which the neighbouring Powers do not possess. In the Event of this Country having alone to contend with France (although we have now both Spain and Holland beside) the Consequences were apprehended that the Number and the vast natural and acquired Resources of that State, might operate in the present Mode of War to our infinite Disadvantage, from the Necessity of withdrawing a greater Proportion of useful Members from Agriculture, Manufactures and Commerce, in order to put us in efficient Power to oppose their ordinary Exertion; and that the great attendant Expence, and the consequent Operation on the Revenue, might certainly tend materially to injure our Finances; a Situation of Warfare and Exertion, which the Enemy could long maintain by continual Menaces and Alarms. No Change of Rulers or Form of Government, it was rationally supposed, could ever alter the hostile Views of France against this Country, as being founded in rival Interest, and Peace in this Case as alone to be secured by being always prepared for War. That whatever Government might succeed the present

present in that Country, we should not have less Cause for Preparation. The Monarchy would be necessarily possessed of all the great Acquisitions made by the Republic; and without Doubt, the Rivalry and Jealousy of France as to this Country is not confined to any Form of Government, as our History well evinces; the Walls of the Court would as well resound with "Delenda est Carthago," as those of the Republican Councils. As these simple Considerations led to the Conclusion, that France and her Allies would naturally ever retain their Interests to abase this Country, so it imperiously required that Britain should oppose with united Exertion, and the Spirit of her ancient Glory. It appeared on Reflection of the Means of maintaining such long continued Exertion, that from the comparative Strength and Resources of the contending Nations, that we ought to be able to effect this with great Inferiority of Number in the Field, so as not to be exhausted by disproportionate Exertion. Though the Power and Excellence of our Ordnance is certainly great,

though

though the natural Superiority of our Cavalry is indisputable, yet Advantage of Number will even in these Respects greatly operate. But particularly in the present Mode of War there appeared no Means of supplying great Deficiency in point of Number of Infantry (to which the Enemy owes his greatest Advantages, and on which he placed his reliance) when the Troops on both Sides are equally disciplined, inured to fire, and well commanded. This occasioned the Conclusion, that it was the Nature of the Arms used that prevented our obtaining Advantages with Inferiority of Number as in former Times. On entering into the Examination of the Merits of our ancient Weapons which gave us that Superiority, it appeared on Comparison with the Effect of Small Arms, that the Use of the Long Bow in the Field has been disused without due Consideration, and more from Prejudice, though evidently the only Weapon that can always afford Advantage even to great Inferiority, from its Excellence depending on greater Powers of Strength, Activity and calm Resolution, than any other Nation possesses equal to the British

(and

(and particularly the English.) The reviving the Use of Archery together with the Pike, presented, therefore, in every Point of View the greatest Utility from its Effect in the present Time, either to oppose Cavalry or Infantry, the Consideration of which is offered in the following Lines, together with the general Description of the Manual Exercise of the two Weapons when united. As in the present intended general Arming of the People, the far greater Mass may from Necessity be armed with the Pike, under every Reason it is evident, the Use of the Bow should be added to it; for independent of its superior Effect, it is the only efficient Weapon of reach, that can conveniently be used with the Pike without being cumbersome to the Individual; without missile Weapons it will be impossible to act with Annoyance to the Enemy, but great Loss must be sustained in most Situations, without Power of Offence. But the Use of the Bow being added, will produce such Effects as to excite a wonder it has been so long neglected, and strike the Enemy with Amaze, and Terror even of vast Inferiority. The reviving in this Manner



the Use of Archery is strongly recommended to the British Youth, to all who are sensible not to have degenerated from the Force and Spirit of their Ancestors, and who recall to Mind with National Pride and Emulation the Exploits achieved by the Valiant English Bowmen. The Enemy will by its Effect soon find, that we are still the same as at Cressy, Poitiers and Agincourt, and the Fear of renewing this Remembrance on his own Territory may induce an honorable Peace, which if ensuing from this Cause, he will never venture to interrupt, as long as British Nerves retain their Vigor; it should be considered by those who may be induced to arm in this Manner, that they are thereby so completely appointed as to inspire the greatest Confidence, and the well known Effects which the Bow has produced, may well justify it in the present Time, for any just Causes that appear to the contrary. No Advantage can be lost by thus using the Bow; and when in the Trial its Powers will appear as ample as I have asserted, how well will the Experiment be justified which is liable to such important Consequences.

Should

Should in this Center of the Kingdom be found  
1000 Individuals, Nobles, Gentry and Citizens,  
who may so bring forward their Service, they  
will soon perceive its Advantages, and incite the  
more general Extension of the Measure, from the  
Force of such respectable Example.

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## CONSIDERATIONS, &amp;c.

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WHEN the Utility of the Revival of Archery is urged, a superficial Idea of the Powers of the Bow may raise a Smile in many, from little Estimation of its Effect, which has only been seen in a desultory Manner in these Times as an Amusement; and from the Prejudice imbibed in Favor of Fire-Arms. But it should be regarded with some Opinion of its Power, as the Cause of the famous Victories of our Edwards and Henries,

The first who deep impressed on haughty Gaul  
The Terror of thy Arms  
That awes her Genius still.

THOMSON.

In ancient Times the greatest Conquests and Victories were achieved by the Bow, it enabled the less numerous, though more strong and active People,

People, to withstand the mightiest Empires; the Scythian Tribes were held as Invincible, even against the Persian Hosts, though themselves were Bowmen; the Romans in their Height of Power and Dominion, though Conquerors of Europe, Africa, and the East, could yet make no Impression on the Monarchy of the Arsacides, but were for Ages defeated in all their Attempts by the Parthian Archers. The Alans, Huns, and Dacii, who finally overthrew the Empire of the West, were remarkable for Archery. It was by Means of the Bow, that the Arabian Tribes, emerging from their confined and desert Territory, established the vast Power of the Caliphs. After them, the Turks, by the same Weapon, overthrew the Eastern Empire, bereft the European Powers of some of their finest Provinces, menaced Christendom, and preserved a formidable State so long as they retained its Use in full Vigour. These Nations, and all others who have excelled in Archery, were distinguished for Activity and Strength, kept up and inured by Practice and Martial Exercises: Since those Days, the only Nation who has excelled in the



the Power of using the Bow, has been the English, the Exploits of whose Archers has equalled, if not surpassed, whatever is recounted of those of the former Nations. For after their adopting its Use, subsequent to the Norman Conquest, they so greatly improved its Power over all other Nations, owing to superior personal Strength, and to that cool and steady tempered Resolution, which is absolutely essential to excel in Archery,\* as to render all other of their Contemporaries (even the Normans themselves afterwards, who had introduced it) unable to oppose them with any chance of Success, which occasioned them to resort to every Invention to withstand its Effect, either by the unwieldy Cross-Bow, or the strongest Armour, which obtained so much with the French, even after the Disuse of the Bow, as to be a great Incum-

\* This Temper of Mind which is peculiar to the English in Action, gave them great Advantage; the Impetuosity of the French Character was, and still is, an insuperable Obstacle to their Excellence in the Use of the Bow, though it acts in their Favor with the Musket. As to the Necessity of calm Resolution in the Archer, vide *ASCHAN*, Book II. Page 228.

brance

brance to them\*, yet in no wise preventing the Effect of the Shot of the English Archers †, who were more dreaded than any other Troops in the World ‡, continually gaining the most decisive

\* Vide Montaigne's Essays, Vol. II.

† Besides what must appear evident from their great Victories in France, gained over Adversaries in the strongest Armour, I shall quote an Instance of their Power from Walsingham the Historian, describing their Effect at the Battle of Holmedon Hill, against the Scots, in the Time of Henry IV. " Thus the Glory of the Victory was entirely " owing to the Archers, who delivered their Arrows so " briskly, so warmly, and so effectually, that they battered " the Helms, they split the Swords, they shivered the " Lances, and the best tempered Mail proved but a weak " Defence against the Execution they did."

GUTHRIE'S *History of England*, Vol. II.

‡ Montluc, in his Commentaries, speaking of the Siege of Calais, at which he was present, states, that it was a traditional saying in his Time in France, " that one Englishman " would beat three Frenchmen, and that the English " would never fly nor never yield;" which had no doubt been derived from Experience. The same Testimony was given by the Breton Generals to the English, before the Battle of St. Aubin, in the Time of Henry VII. when they ordered 1200 of their Troops to carry the red Cross, for to impress the French with the Dread of their being English. The same Impression seized the French at the Battle of the Spurs, in the Time of Henry VIII.

Victories,

Victories, with great Disparity of Number, over every Nation with whom they contended in Arms: and it is worthy of Remark, that as being excellent Archers, gave several of the Nations before mentioned, the Power of resisting, nay conquering more numerous, and otherwise more powerful Nations; so also it in like Manner acted in Favour of the English, who, with Scotland against them, (then being the intimate Ally of France) Ireland of no Assistance, but rather held as a dependant Conquest, yet did they ten several Times successfully invade France\*, once brought it to the Brink of Ruin†, once conquered it‡, made one of its Monarchs Prisoner§, and another tributary||. The Source of Detraction and Loss of this amazing

\* In 1339, 1346, 1355, 1359, 1415, 1417, 1421, 1475, 1513, 1544.

† France was brought to all but absolute Conquest by Edward III.

‡ Under Henry V.

§ King John made Prisoner at the Battle of Poitiers, with his Son Philip and most of his Nobility.

|| Lewis XI. who submitted to pay a Tribute to Edward IV. to relieve himself from the Terror of English Arms.

Glory

Glory, was our Civil Diffentions, which afforded to the Enemy the Means of regaining those Advantages with Ease, which had been obtained with Difficulty. A memorable Lesson, instructing us, that the Glory and Power which is achieved by the united Will and Force of a Nation can alone be maintained by equal Exertions. The fatal Spirit of Party, which in the Reign of Henry VI. infested the Court, Camp and City, contributed more to the Loss of our Honor and Conquests, than the Enemy's Arms. Similar Causes in all Times produce like Effects, and the Rise and Decadence of States are caused either by the Force of Union and Energy, or Effects of a contrary Principle. It is an Assertion I am of Opinion may be well maintained, seeing the great Authorities that exist in its Support as well from ancient, as modern History of Nations, that a People, however comparatively inferior in many Respects, yet, if united, cannot but be invincible.\*

\* This may be observed from the Struggle made by the once Great States of Holland against Philip II. and the justness of their Motto, "*Parvæ Res Concordia crescit.*" as also from the Exertions of the ancient Swiss, in defence of their Independence against the greater Powers of the Time.

and

and it is sincerely hoped, at the present eventful Æra, that mindful as well of the Virtues as the Faults of our Ancestors, we may, by adopting their Energy, maintain unfulfilled the high Reputation and Glory of the British Name. But I return to state, that as to the Powers requisite for the efficient Use of the Bow, equal Ability exists in the People of this Country as at any former Period; the present Race appears in no wise degenerated in point of Force of Body, as the slightest Observation on the Stature and Form of the general Mass of the People, as well as on the Causes that tend to produce or increase that Strength, will render easily discernable; and it is proved by considering that by the ancient Statutes, it was required of every Man from 18 to 35 Years to shoot in a Bow capable of carrying 11 Score Yards; in the present Time, among those who practise for Amusement, there is scarce a strong Archer, that cannot shoot that Distance at a Flight, and some even as far as 15 Score Yards. As our Powers cannot but be deemed equal to its Use, it is stated, in order to point out the Advantage of

Archery



Archery in the present Times, that in direct reverse of the Effect of the Bow, Fire-Arms brought the Nations to an Equality, and acted greatly in favor of the Weakest, though more numerous, if equally brave and capable of Discipline. A Man of ordinary Strength and irregular Make may be able to handle the Piece as well as another of greater Powers, but not equal to manage a strong Bow; from the Time of this Change taking place in arming the Infantry, it is but in rare Instances, that great Inferiority of Number has obtained such Victories as formerly, against equally disciplined Troops;† though in most Actions since those Times when Number was more balanced, though yet in favor of the Enemy, the British Superiority has appeared with distinguished Pre-eminence; but Success with great Disparity is particularly obviated by the Mode of Tactics lately introduced by the French, of acting in Columns, and continually

† The Decision of the Battles of Wynendale and Minden, and several others in modern Times, may be traced to the particular ill Conduct, or the undisciplined State of the Enemy.

relieving

relieving with fresh Troops when necessary, thereby wearing out their Adversaries more by the Fatigue of long continued Exercise, than the Effect of their Fire; and it must be admitted from the Events of this War, that these Manceuvres have had their Impression upon naturally the best Troops in Europe in obstinate Actions even of Days continuance, though attended with little comparative Loss.

Though Fire-Arms give the Advantage to Number, yet the English Archers formerly never regarded it\*, not hesitating to attack and vanquish great Superiority. The Consequences of the total Disuse of the Bow, and the Variableness in Changing it entirely without good Reason, were apprehended by many at the Time. Lord Herbert,

\* Early in the Morning of the Battle (of Agincourt) Henry sent out a Welch Captain, one David Gam, to reconnoitre the Force and Disposition of the Enemy. Gam being returned, in Report told His Majesty, that there were of the French enough to fight, enough to be slain, and enough to run away. GUTHRIE'S HISTORY, Vol. II. Note in this Battle was slain 10,000; and 14,000 taken Prisoners, by 14,000 Troops in great part enfeebled by Sickness.

reasoning against its Disuse, states the Use of the Bow to be in Favor of the English from their personal Strength, which made up for Inferiority of Number\*. The learned Ascham also in his Treatise on Archery sensibly deprecates its Decay, and the Changing the Use of the Long-Bow for any other Weapon, as that to which the English were most apt and capable, but to be made an Amusement of in Peace and a Defence in War, that it should be joined with the other Arms for the better Defence of the Realm†. But many other Testimonies are given of its Utility, even from the Time in which Fire-Arms began generally to obtain, till a late Period, after its

\* The Reasons are so pointed that I shall give his own Words: "What though with our 12 or 15,000 we have oft defeated their Armies of 50,000 or 60,000, stands it with Reason of War to expect the like Successes still? especially seeing the Use of Arms is changed, and for the Bow, proper for Men of our Strength, the Caliver begins to be generally received."

LORD HERBERT'S *Life and Reign of Henry VIII.*

Page 18. Ed. 1649.

+ Vide Ascham's *Toxophilus*, Book I. page 12.

total

total Disuse in War,\* some of which, as very ingenious and explanatory, may be seen at full in the Notes; besides these Authorities, many good Reasons are alledged as to its Utility at the present Time

\* "The Law of Archery made before, was not only confirmed, but made perpetual; so that notwithstanding the Use of Calivers or Hand-Guns, it was thought fit to continue the Bow. While he that carries the Caliver goes unarmed, the Arrow will have the same Effect within its Distance as the Bullet, and can for one Shot return two. Besides as they used their Halberts with their Bows, they could fall on the Enemy with great Advantage."

LORD HERBERT'S *Life and Reign of Henry VIII.* Page 55.

"As it was certainly by Help of the Broad Arrow and the Long-Bow, that the Normans conquered England, so was it by the same Weapon, that the English afterwards conquered France; I shall therefore here give the Reader an excellent and curious Comparison between this Weapon and our Fire-Arms, as I find it in the Life of William by J. H.—One Circumstance more I hold fit to be observed, that this Victory was gotten only by Means of the Blow of an Arrow, the Use whereof was brought into this Land. Afterwards the English being trained to that Fight, did thereby chiefly maintain themselves with honourable Advantage against all Nations with whom they did contend in Arms, being generally reputed the best Shot in the World. But of late Years it has been altogether laid aside, and instead thereof the Harquebuz

Time by the learned and judicious Mr. Grose, who clearly points out its great Effect, either against Cavalry or Infantry, and the Power the Archers

“ quebuz and Caliver are brought into Use, yet not  
 “ without Contradiction of many expert Men of Arms, who  
 “ albeit they do not reject the Use of the small Pieces, yet  
 “ do they prefer the Bow before them. First, for that in  
 “ a reasonable Distance, it is of greater both Certainty  
 “ and Force. Secondly, for that it discharges faster. Thirdly,  
 “ for that more Men may discharge therewith at once;  
 “ for only the front Ranks discharge with the Piece,  
 “ neither hurt they any but those that are in Front; but  
 “ with the Bow ten or twelve Ranks may discharge together  
 “ ther and will annoy as many Ranks of the Enemy.  
 “ Lastly, for that an Arrow doth strike more Parts of the  
 “ Body, for in that it hurteth by Descent and not only  
 “ point blank like the Bullet, there is no Part of the Body,  
 “ but it may strike, from the Crown of the Head even to  
 “ the nailing the Foot to the Ground; hereupon it followeth,  
 “ that the Arrows falling so thick as Hail on the  
 “ Bodies of Men, as less fearful of their Flesh, so more  
 “ slenderly armed than in former times, must necessarily  
 “ produce most dangerous Effects. Besides these general  
 “ Respects, in many particular Services and Times the  
 “ Use of the Bow is of great Advantage. If some Defence  
 “ lie before the Enemy, the Arrow may strike when  
 “ the Bullet cannot; foul Weather may much hinder the  
 “ Discharge of the Piece, but it is of no great Impediment  
 “ to the Shot of the Bow. A Horse struck with the Bullet,  
 if



Archers have of acting in Situations, where other Troops cannot \*. The Reasons given, shew the Causes why the English Archers were enabled to

gain

“ if the Wound be not mortal, may perform good Service;  
 “ but if an Arrow is fastened in his Flesh, the continual  
 “ Stirring thereof, occasioned by the Motion of himself,  
 “ will force him to cast off all Command, and either bear  
 “ down or disorder those that are near. But the Crack  
 “ of the Piece, some Men say, doth strike a Terror into  
 “ the Enemy: True, if they be such as never heard the  
 “ like Noise before; but a little Use will extinguish these  
 “ Terrors to Men; yea, to Beasts, acquainted with these  
 “ Cracks, they work a weak Impression of Fear: and if it  
 “ be true, as all Men of Action do hold, that the Eye in  
 “ all Battles is first overcome, then against Men equally ac-  
 “ customed to both, the Sight of the Arrow is more avail-  
 “ able to Victory than the Crack of the Piece.”

GUTHRIE'S *History of England*, Vol. I. Page 323, a Note.

\* “ The Long-Bow might, on some Occasions, undoubt-  
 “ edly at this Time, be used with great Advantage, particu-  
 “ larly against Cavalry; a few Horses, wounded by Arrows  
 “ left sticking in them, would probably become so unruly as  
 “ to disorder a whole Squadron. Besides, the Sight and  
 “ Whizzing of the Arrows before the Heads of those  
 “ Horses they did not hit, would keep them in a constant  
 “ State of Terror and Restiveness; nor would a Flight of  
 “ Arrows, falling on a Battalion of Foot, fail of a consider-  
 “ able Effect, independent of the Men they killed or  
 “ wounded, as when shot with an Elevation, they would  
 “ be visible almost from the Time they left the Bow, and

“ if

gain ſuch Advantages over the Men at Arms as to drive them by their barbed Arrows, either off the Field or upon their own Foot. But, on the Change to Fire Arms, the Cavalry was rendered ſuperior to the Infantry, from their Diſcharge not being ſo galling, or of equal Dread, ſo that the Horſe have generally been able, ſince thoſe Days, to bear down the Infantry by the Weight of their Charge, as the Accounts of moſt Actions in modern Times exemplifies: By the Change we therefore loſt a great Advantage, for before it our Cavalry and Infantry were both ſuperior to all Purpoſes.

The Cauſes to which are attributed the Diſuſe of the Bow, are ſuppoſed to ariſe from the Power and Effect of Fire-Arms being little known on

“ it would require a more than ordinary Exertion of Courage to refrain from looking at them, and endeavouring  
 “ by ſome Movement to avoid them; this, by engroſſing  
 “ the Attention of the Men, would prevent their acting  
 “ with Vigour againſt a Battalion oppoſed to them. Archers  
 “ could act in the Rear of a Battalion of Infantry, and  
 “ even of a Squadron of Cavalry.”

GROSE, *Hiſtory of the Engliſh Army*, Vol. I. Page 148, a Note.

their

their first Introduction, but conceived of more, than they really possessed, an Opinion which heightened by the Fire and Noise attending their Discharge, induced the Archers to distrust their Bows, from esteeming them of not sufficient Reach, as to put them on an Equality with those Arms of a greater Power of Range, and in Consequence the Change took place, in order to give Confidence. But certainly could our Ancestors have witnessed the fruitless long continued Firing of Musketry (after its being brought to its highest Improvement) in the Actions of Hours, even Days in modern War, with the little comparative Loss, to what was sustained when Archery was used, \* they would have not been so

\* Respecting the great Inefficiency attending the Firing of Musketry in modern War, and the consequent Expence attending it, it may be judged of by what is stated by Marshal Count Saxe, in his Memoirs, that, on a Computation of the Balls used in a Day's Action, not one of upwards of Eighty-five took place.

By the Observation on Battles of a later Date, its Effect falls infinitely short of the above Proportion, which can be clearly proved by the Review of the various Actions of the

so readily, from Prejudice, out of conceit with their famous Weapon, but it would have remained in Estimation to the present Time. It was rarely necessary for the Archers to empty their Quivers

to

present Continental War. As a sufficient Instance to govern the Rest, I shall cite its Effect at the Battle before Tournay, the 22d May, 1794, between the French and the Allies, an Action the most obstinately disputed on both Sides, from six A. M. till nine at Night, the French losing at the highest Calculation, 10,000 men, killed and wounded, the Allies 5,000; the Country opposing little Interruption from the Nature of the Ground, being entirely plain and no Cover, but slight Hedges or the Grain then standing. The French brought into Action 100,000 Men, the Allies 60,000, reckoning the Proportion of our Infantry at 40,000, and supposing, at a moderate Average, that this Body of Men at least expended 32 Rounds each Man, all Circumstances considered, form a Total of 1,280,000 Balls discharged, to occasion the above Loss of the Enemy, making 128 Shots to the disabling one Object, without bringing into Computation the Proportion of the Loss that might have been occasioned by the Bayonet, the Cavalry and Artillery, though these Causes that Day may be reasonably concluded to have occasioned half the Loss, and in this Case upwards of 236 Shots of Musketry must have been used to disable one Man. The same Deduction may be drawn from a more general Review of all the Actions in modern War; but at the Distance at which Musketry can act with any Effect, as far as nine Score Yards, it

to obtain the most memorable Victories, a few Discharges, well directed, were sufficient to break the best Troops, and that in Times when the strongest Armour was worn to prevent their Effect. At Agincourt one Discharge of the Archers, under the Duke of York, overthrew 2400 Men at Arms, at the Onset of the Battle. So conquering a Weapon was the Bow, that the Enemy could scarcely either fight or fly, so that beside the Carriage, the English have taken Prisoners, as at Poitiers, double the Number of their whole Army. In these Times, the continued Roar and menacing Danger of Cannon and Musketry, presents to the Soldier nothing but the Idea of present Death; although he is afterwards surpris'd at the Loss being so comparatively small to what Imagination had

it is asserted that in the Discharge of a Body of well trained Archers, allowing even great Deficiency, at least one Shaft in Ten would hit, so as to kill or wound an Object. Here then evidently appears an Advantage in Favor of the Bow, in point of Certainty of its Shot, of no less than upwards of Twenty to One!!! And as the Archer has the Power of discharging two Shots at least for one of his Adversary, the above Proportion is even doubled.

heightened



heightened the Danger. But notwithstanding this apparent Terror of the modern Arms, yet there never has existed real Cause for the Archer to distrust his Bow against small Arms; on the contrary, the reverse is evident from Reason and Demonstration. In the present Time, the Revival of its Use must be attended with the greatest Success and Advantage; as it cannot but be admitted we possess equal Powers to its efficient Use from our personal Strength and Activity. I shall therefore describe the Arming of the Archer, which must certainly appear to carry great Superiority and Efficiency.

The Archer completely armed, carries his Long-Bow and Quiver of twenty-four Sheaf-Arrows, the Bow proportioned to his Strength and proved in its Power and Elasticity\*. These, when not using them, are slung at his Back: he is also provided with a Pike about ten Feet in length, which, when in Action, and using his Bow, he strikes beside

\* The ascertaining the Power of the Bow and proving its Elasticity by weighing it, is the Invention of the ingenious Mr. Thomas Waring.

him,

him, of grounds through the Files; and when necessary to prevent the Breaking in of Cavalry, he plants in Front; it is supported by two Spikes which fall from the Staff of the Pike, and when extended, support it presented, as high as the Breast of a Horse, or Middle of a Man.\* Two files of the Archers thus plant their Pikes, when so attacked, and as they oppose a Defence not to be broke in upon, they can at the same Time pour so dreadful and offensive a Shower of Arrows, as to destroy, wound and throw into Disorder any Assailants. When acting on the Offensive, they advance under continual well directed Flights at Intervals, and then charge with their Spears, if necessary, which, being several Feet longer than the Musket and Bayonet, though not so heavy and unwieldy, are far more formidable. The Archer also carries a Broad Sword for close Action. Though so well armed, yet none of his Weapons are in the way of the other. In point of Defence,

\* The Model of the Pike thus supported in Defence, may be seen at Mr. Thomas Waring's Manufactory, Charlotte Street, Bloomsbury.

if

if necessary, without any Inconvenience, he wears a Breast-Plate Musket proof, similar to the present Austrian Cuirassiers (the Archers always were so equipped formerly,) but in all Cases, he should wear the Helmet, as a more convenient and secure Covering for the Head. These are the Outlines of the complete armed Archer; and the Advantage of his Service will be herein after pointed out, if any Thing can be wanting to the Ideas suggested in the Authorities before cited. The Practice of his Exercise is maintained at less Expence than any other, the Shot being always recoverable, and from the Nature of it, he is rendered a Marksman from the Training of continual Shooting with Aim, and judging of Distance by Shooting at the Butt and Roving,\* which

\* It is a great Advantage which the Archer possesses, from the Nature of his Weapon, that he has it always in his Power to judge of his Discharge by his Arrow lighting and being able to recover it, from which he can amend his Shot, by knowing the Causes, which may deviate its Direction, and by ascertaining the Powers of his Bow, give the necessary Elevation; but this is more difficult with

which is by no Means so general with any other kind of Troops, to whom more Attention is paid to their Evolutions in Bodies, than to their Individual Skill. As Archers are soon capable of learning the Acting in Line and Column, their being Masters of the Power of their Weapon, must necessarily appear to give them great Advantage. I shall here describe certain of those, which on the clearest Grounds shew the Superiority the Bow would obtain over the Small-Arms of the Enemy. The Effect of a Musket Ball cannot be judged of according to its great Extent of Range, if shot in Elevation, which may be 800 Yards or more, for it cannot for many Reasons be exactly determined; but from its efficient Direction within a reasonable Distance; which, as the Piece is levelled, is reduced at the highest Estimation to

with Fire-Arms; in Shooting at the Target, if the Mark is missed, it is impossible to precisely to ascertain the Cause as with the former. Even in Action, which is of more Importance, the Archer by seeing the Flight of his Arrow can determine whether it reaches its due Destination, and directs his following Shots accordingly.

*Note of the Author.*

200 Yards,

200 Yards; and the Aim at this Distance is, even very uncertain, from as well the exceeding Diminution of the Objects in the Perspective as the imperceptible Inequalities of Ground, which Causes may render the Level either difficult to adjust, or if correct, defeats it. Little Effect has been done in modern War at this Distance by the Musket, and more often the Event is decided by the Bayonet, (of which the Enemy vaunt so much) after a long Continuance of Firing, which certainly does not advance the Excellence of the Musket. The Range of a Bow, when discharged in Elevation, is from 9 to 12 Score Yards, sometimes more, but from the greater Pressure of Air on the Shaft than on the Bullet, and from the Gravity being in the Pile, it descends at its ultimate Distance, before it has lost its Force, and will then do good Execution; whereas the Force of a Ball in a like Situation is spent. A Bullet, if it misses its Direction, by overshooting the Object at any Distance, goes to the utmost Range without further Effect: the Arrow, if it misses the Front Ranks, may yet descend on the Rear, and do equal Execution. At the



the Distance at which small Arms are efficient, the Bow is of more Effect and greater Quickness of Exercise.

No Missile can be so destructive and annoying, as the barbed or sheaf Arrow used by the English Archers: for if the Object, Man or Horse, is wounded, he is put out of Action till extracted; the latter particularly, though struck by a Ball, while warm, may continue to act; but the continually galling of an Arrow would certainly render him raging with his Pain, and disorder those around him. The Force which is capable of being given to the Arrow, is certainly greatly superior to the leaden Bullet, resulting from its Length, its Pile of tempered Iron and pointed Form, calculated for piercing, which may be judged of, by the Archers in former Times having acted against Adversaries in the strongest Armour, whereas in these Times, the Austrian Horse Cuirassiers carry Breast-Plates of not above 7lb. Weight, which are musket-proof.\* Let not Prejudice

\* The Force with which an Arrow struck an Object at a moderate Distance, may be conceived from an Instance given

judice so far interpose, as to esteem the barbed Arrow a cruel, though certainly it is a deathful Weapon, and at the same Time pass over unheeded the Consideration of the more cruel Mutilation of Individuals by the Artillery of modern Times. The Arrow is the ancient Weapon of the Realm, and the reviving its Use in Defence of our Rights is but exerting it in the Cause of Humanity. In point of quick shooting, from the simple Exercise of the Bow, there are only the Motions of nocking the Shaft, and drawing up the Bow, which are soon effected with order, so that an Archer, expertly trained, can shoot 12 times in a Minute, and a slower from 6 to 8 times. But the Exercise of the Musket is composed of more Motions in order to use it, which take at least twice the Time, however effected, so that Archers

given by Edward VI. in his Journal, wherein he says, that an hundred Archers of his Guard shot before him two Arrows each, and afterwards all together, that they shot at an Inch Board which some pierced through and stuck into the other Board; divers pierced it quite through with the Heads of their Arrows: the Board being well seasoned Timber. The Distance from the Mark is not mentioned.

could

could always be able to return at least two shot for one of the Enemy; the Advantage must be evident attending the quick Discharges of such galling Showers of Arrows, the Danger of which is seen and apprehended; is it possible to suppose, but that the greatest Carnage and Confusion must take place, even with the best disciplined Troops? Let an Idea be formed of the Terror of the Object, in supposing a Body of a thousand Archers opposed to a like Number, or even to great Superiority within their Distance; what Impression must it not have on the Enemy, the Sight and Effect of at least 6000 Arrows flying upon their Line in a Minute! under such Flights, kept up without Intermission, how would it be possible for them, either Horse or Foot, to perform their Evolutions or Exercise; or not fall into Rout and Disorder amidst such Carnage and visible Danger? for Musketeers are enabled to keep their Order as opposed to each other, from not seeing it. But under such galling Discharges, if the Cavalry could possibly push to the Charge of the Archers, they then

D  
would

would plant their Pikes.\* This Palliade of a double Row of Lances would effectually secure the Ranks of the Archers from being broke,

\* The great Use and Effect of the Pike, in withstanding Cavalry, may be judged of by the Reasons given in a Military Trésité published in 1589, from the French of Mr. Wm. de Bellay, who writes in Page 26—" But let us pass further " to speak of the Pike; of which although the Switzers " have not been the Inventors, yet have they at the least " brought it again into Use; for that they being poore, and " desirous to live at libertie, were constrained to fight " against the Princes of Germany, who being rich and of " great Power, did maintain many Horsemen, which the " Switzers could not do, and therefore making these " Warres a-foote, they were constrained to run into the " ancient Manner, and out of it to choose some Armes, " wherewith they might defend themselves against the " Enemy's Horsemen, which Necessity had made them el- " ther to maintain or find out again the Orders of Time " past, without which Pikes, Foot-Men are wholly unpro- " fitable; they took therefore Pikes, as Weapons not only " fit to withstand Horsemen, but also to vanquish them; " by the Help of which Weapon, and through the Trust " they have in their own good Order, they have taken such " a Boldnesse, that fifteen or twenty Thousand of their " Men dart enterprize upon a whole World of Horsemen, " as they have made proof at Navarre and at Marignan, " although the one Bataille fell out better on their Side, than " the other."

Gloss's *History of the English Army*,  
Vol. I. Page 137, a Note.

and

and enable them by their terrible Discharges to put their Adversaries to rout. In the Charge of Infantry they would come to the Push of Pike, and plainly shew the Effect of the Spear over the Enemy's Bayonets. With Archers, even a Column of Forty or Fifty deep can discharge together, and would annoy as many Ranks of the Enemy, if he was advancing in like Order within Bow-Shot, which could not fail, besides the Loss, of throwing his Column into the greatest Disorder and Confusion, and prevent his acting with any Regularity. The Use of the Bow is liable to fewer Impediments than small Arms, which may be rendered defective by the Weather, and the various Accidents attending the Lock, the Flint or the Powder; with the Bow, it is only necessary to be sure of the String, any Number of Discharges within the Day does not affect it; but the Musket after long firing grows so foul as greatly to weaken its Effect. Although the Noise of the Fire may be supposed to strike Dread and Alarm, yet this Impression is easily removed by



by Custom; and in that Case, among disciplined Troops, the Sight of the Archers Shot would convey more Terror, than the Noise attending the Discharge of the Piece. It must appear evident to the Judgment of all Military Men, who rightly consider the acting of Archers, that there are numberless Situations of Ground in which they could act with peculiar Effect, not only in the Field, but in the Attack or Defence of Lines they must be of the greatest Service; in the former the Intrenchments as to them are of no Protection to the Enemy, from their shooting in Elevation, which must be very galling to his Artillery, which could not so readily act with Vigour, if in reach of the Arrows, and this would favour our own Artillery. In defending Intrenchments, they would be of equal Advantage to check the Advance of the Enemy's Columns, by their Power of close discharging in that Order, if necessary, when they themselves are protected against the Enemy's Musketry. In the Field, there are many Situations from Inequality of Ground, which are nevertheless imperceptible

imperceptible in the Distance, and yet totally obviate the Effect of the levelled Piece, but not the elevated Shot of the Bow. The acting of Archers, from these Causes, could not fail in the present Time to afford great Advantages, and occasion Dread and Impression on the Enemy. To effect the Revival of the Use of the Bow with the Improvements in arming the Archer as set forth, it is strongly recommended to the Attention of the several Societies of Archers, to incite the carrying the same into effect by their Example. By their reviving its Use, as one of the Arts of Peace, they have testified their Respect for what was once the Defence of the Realm; it is therefore so far their Duty to the Country at this Crisis, on the just Grounds that exist for influencing it, to bring to efficient Use in War, what cannot but greatly contribute to the present and future Safety of the Country against the Foreign Invader.

Of an enlightened Public, not influenced by Prejudice to neglect what can in any degree concern the National Welfare, the greatest Attention is

expected

expected with Confidence to a Measure, which will have the Effect of raising our Renown, and efficiently promote Exertions in Defence of that Liberty and Independence, which our Fore-fathers maintained with their Lives and Fortunes for so many Ages.

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*The* MANUAL EXERCISE *of the* BOW  
and PIKE.

THE Standing of the Archer is first to be considered; he must have one Foot Space from his right and left hand Man more than his Square, in order for the Action of his Bow, the Ranks should be about one Pace behind the other; this is called the open Order. The close Order is, when he comes up to charge with the Pike, in which he has no more than his Square. The Archer for the Word of Command looks to the Right, the Words of Order are,

*Form your Line.*

*Stand in open Order.*

*To right, Dress.*

{ Either two or three deep,  
as judged necessary.

## FIRST POSITION.

*The Archer ordered. Vide Fig. I. and Frontispiece.*

THIS Posture is the First, as being ready for all other Services, the Bow and Quiver being at his Back, and the Pike at rest. It is the first in which the Archer is thrown when in Line, and that which he is always in on Guard, and in the Motions of Parade.

The Words of Order are:

1st,  
*Handle your Pike.*

{ In this the right Hand is lowered on the Pike, and the Left is brought to handle it even with the Shoulder.

2d,  
*Advance your Pike.*

{ This is then brought forward and struck in Front, something similar to poising the musket.

*Trail*



3d,  
*Trail your Pike,*

{ This is by lowering the  
Pikes with the Point to the  
Ground. In Line, only the  
front Rank can do this, for  
obvious Reasons.

The two first Motions are given as the Salute  
to an Officer, and that made, on relieving Guard.  
The Third to be used may be thus distinguished:  
the lowering the Pike to the Left, as a Royal  
Salute; when to the Right to Commanding Ge-  
nerals.



SECOND

## SECOND POSITION.

*The Archer Shooting. Vide Fig. II.*

THIS is the first Posture of the Archer's acting on the Offensive, which he enters into as soon as within reach of the Enemy.

The words of Order are :

1st,

*Strike or ground your*

*Pike.*

{ This is, into the ground,  
at the right Side; but when  
it will not admit it, it is  
grounded to the Left along  
the Ranks.

2d,

*Order your Bow.*

{ This is the lowering the  
Bow with the Quiver, drawing it from the Sheath and  
bracing it.

3d,

*Make ready Point.*

{ This is nocking the Shaft  
and presenting it.

SECOND

*Shoot*

4th,  
*Shoot together.*

Or, 1st, 2d, &c. Com-  
pany or Battalion, of the  
right or left Center, the  
Number of Yards Distance  
being called by the Score  
and its Proportions.

The Distance is ascertained by the most expert Archers on the Right of the Battalion; by the Serjeants for Infance, acting as Flugelmen, which they determine by Judgment of the Eye aided by the Assistance derived from the Training.

When the Archers are pressing on in Attack, the Words of Order are :

*Shoulder your Pike—* { The Bow at the same  
*March—Halt.* { Time is ported in the left  
Hand.

The Orders as in the preceding Page, omitting the 2d.

The most effectual Mode of Attack, wherever possible for the Archers, is, having ordered their Bows, to advance rapidly to an hundred Yards, and then open on the Enemy with a quick Succession of Discharges. Scarce an Arrow would fall in vain at this Distance.

THIRD

## THIRD POSITION.

*The Archer Charging. Vide Fig. III.*

THIS is the second Posture in Attack, if, after using their Bows, and having thrown the Enemy into Disorder by their Flights of Arrows, it is judged proper to come to the Push of Pike.

The Words of Order are :

1st, { In the manner as seen in  
*Fasten your Bow.* } the Plate.

2d, { This is returning it, to-  
Or, *Return your Bow.* } gether with the Quiver, to  
the right Shoulder, as seen  
in the 1st Position,

3d, *Recover your Pike.*

\* It is to be observed that this Manner of disposing of the Bow is in order to recover it with greater Quickness, but if in this Posture it is awkward in Charging, it may be returned to the 1st Position.

*Come*

4th, *Come to your close Order.*

5th, *Port your Pike, and March.*

6th, *Charge.*

The three last Orders are only necessary, if, before the Bow is used, it is requisite to charge with the Pike, which may happen on sudden Occasions.

If it is judged proper to charge Sword in hand, after using the Bow, which in the Attack of the Enemy in many Situations, when the Troops have to climb over interposing Objects, is the most rapid Manner of Assaulting, from the Weapon being used with one Hand; the Words of Order are:

1st, *Front Ranks return your Bows.*

2d, *Ground your Pikes.* { This is always necessary  
in order not to be in the  
Way of the Ranks rushing  
forward.

3d, *Draw your Swords.*

4th, *Rear make ready, Present, Shoot, &c.*

In charging the Pike, the front Rank pushes with it, held firm on the Hip, having about two

Feet



Feet in Reserve, the second Rank pushes with it overhanded above the other's Shoulder, the third Rank carries it ported ; it would be utterly impossible for the Enemy's Bayonets to stand the Charge, their Line would be overthrown with little Power of annoying their Adversaries.



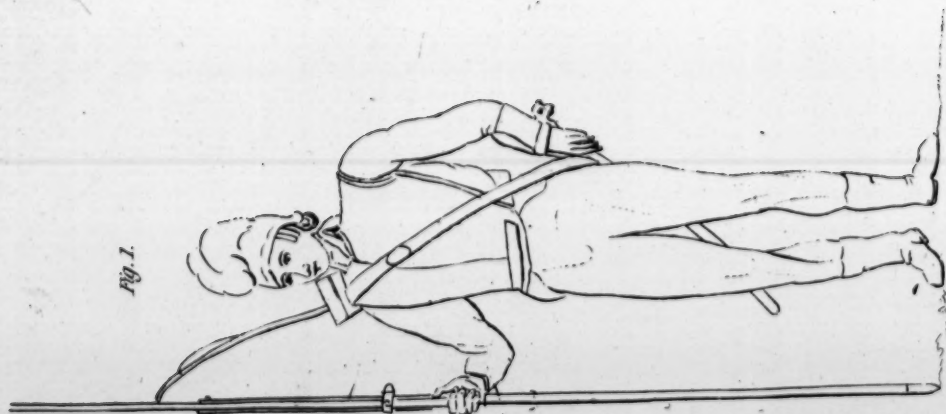


Fig. 1.

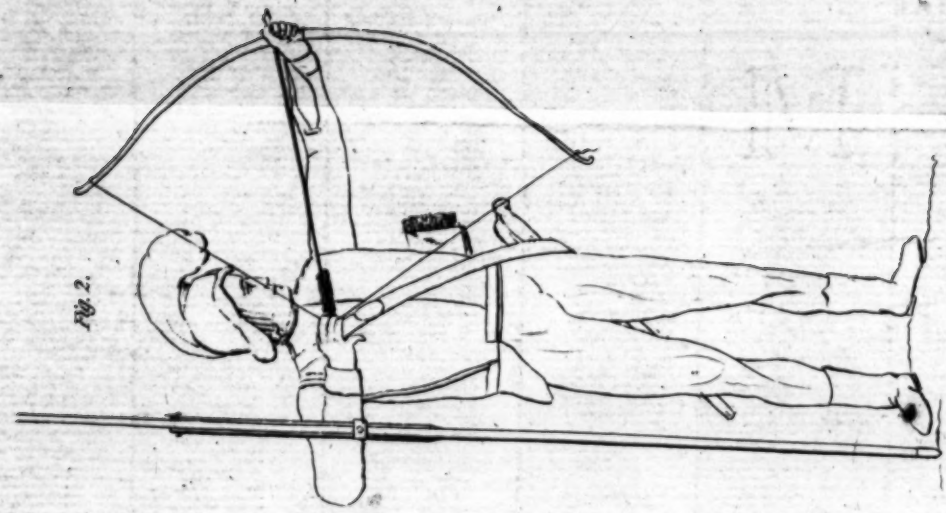
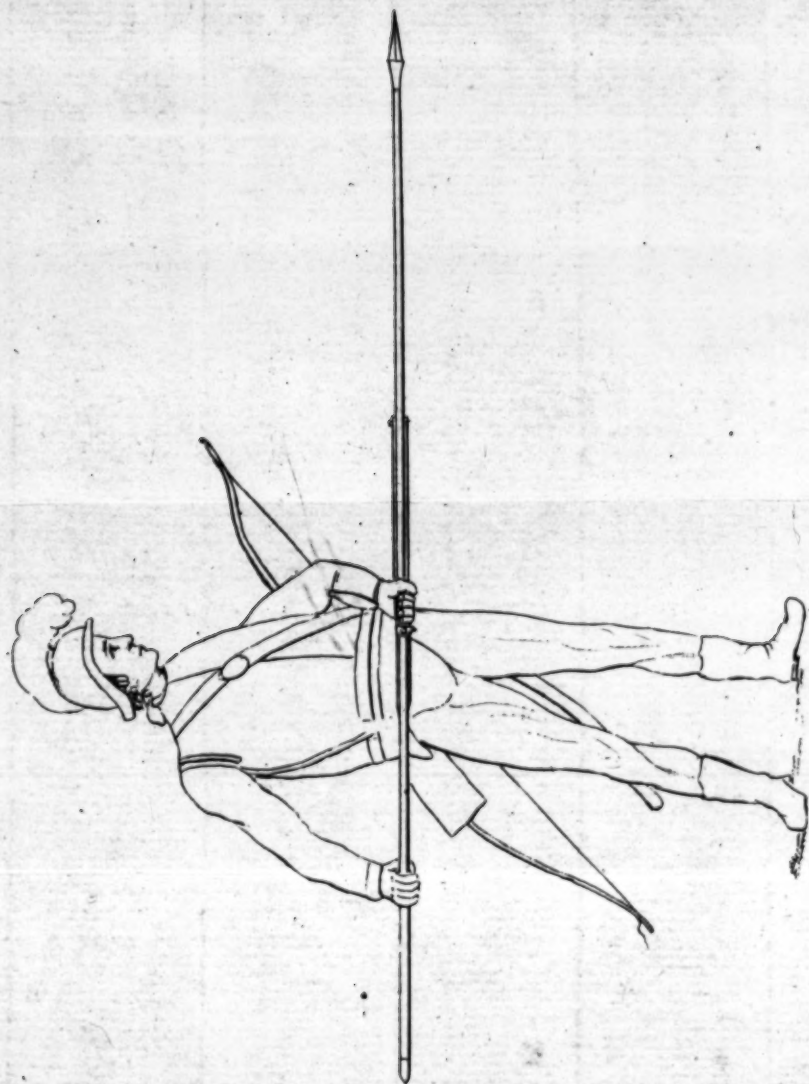


Fig. 2.

to face Page 10.

Fig. 3.



## FOURTH POSITION.

*The Archer Covered. Vide Fig. IV.*

THE two former Positions are when the Archers act on the Offensive. This, and the subsequent Posture, is when they act on the Defensive, if charged by Cavalry. The third Position is used against Infantry.

The Words of Order are :

1st,	{	After planting their Pikes
Front Ranks, plant		they must preserve the open
your Pikes.		Order.
2d, Make ready, present.		
3d, Shoot, &c.		

Nothing can be more formidable than this Posture which Archers present to Cavalry ; from it they act offensive and defensive at the same Time. The Enemy must be so occupied with the continual Discharges of Arrows, that even if it were possible

possible for them by any Means to beat down the Lances, yet the Attention of the Men and Horses would be so engaged from being in that Manner galled, that they could act with no Effect. It was from this Cause, that in the ancient Battles, the Archers, though only secured by a double Pallisade of Stakes, 6 to 8 Feet long, made on the Spur of Occasion by the Pioneers, could yet never be broke in upon by great Bodies of Men at Arms. But the Pike, with the Firmness given to it by the Spikes, presents far more Security, and is an infinite Improvement. If the Horse retreat, the Archers would continue their Attack, till they entirely routed them.

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## FIFTH POSITION.

*The Archer couched.* Vide Fig. V.

THIS is the second Defensive Posture, and is only used, when it may be judged necessary to strengthen the Stand of Pikes against Cavalry—and also at the near Distance to give an Opening to the Shot of the rear Rank.

The Words of Order are :

*Front Rank fasten* { The Note in Page 48 is also applicable to this Motion.

*your Bows.*

*Draw your Swords close to your Helms.*

*Charge at the Foot and couch low.*

*Middle and Rear, make ready, present.*

*Shoot, &c.*

If the Enemy gives Way—then—

*Front Rank, recover your Bows,*

*Make ready, present.*

*Shoot, &c.*

It is fully sufficient for the front Rank alone to couch, in order to strengthen the Pikes, for if the front Line thereof is preserved, the second cannot be broke in upon.

E

SIXTH

## SIXTH POSITION.

*The Archer Marching. Vide Fig. VI.*

THIS is the last Posture of the Archer, after Action, and preparatory to marching.

The Words of Order are :

	{	This is by putting it into the Sheath, on the Side of the Quiver, and passing them together to the right Shoulder.
<i>Return your Bow.</i>		

*Recover your Pike.*

*Shoulder your Pike.—March.*

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This Manual Exercise is described as applying to the Complete Armed Archer, in order to give the Idea, how far he is capable of being fitted for Offence and Defence. But the Archers may be distinguished into the Heavy and the Light Armed : the first having the complete Equipment; the latter only

Fig. 5.

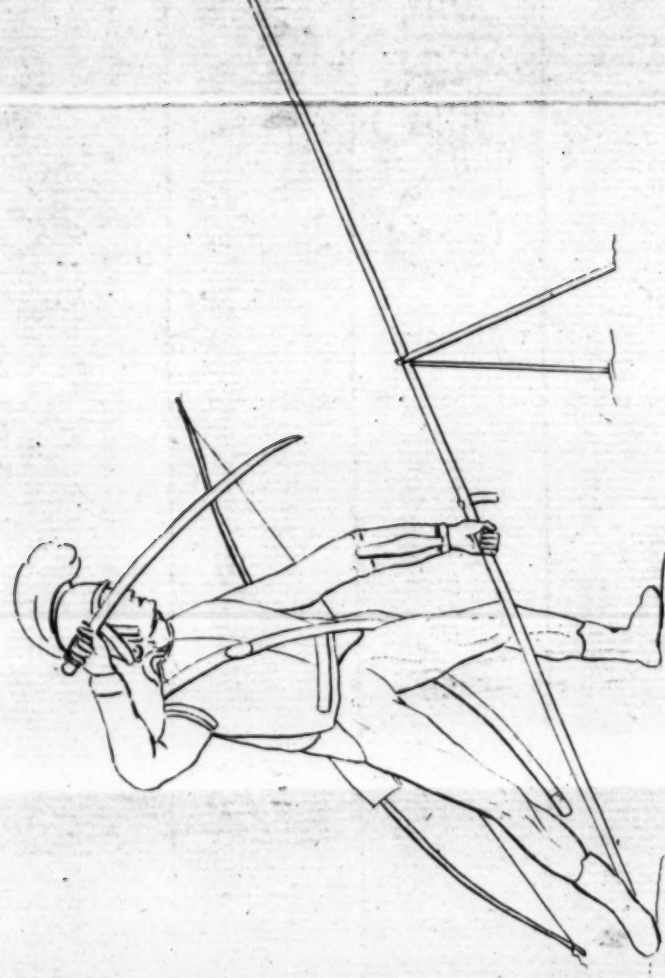
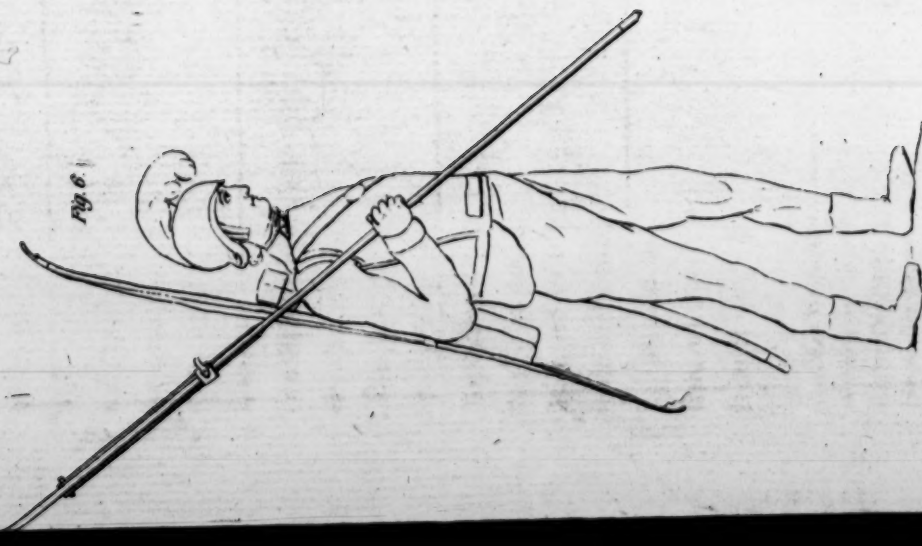
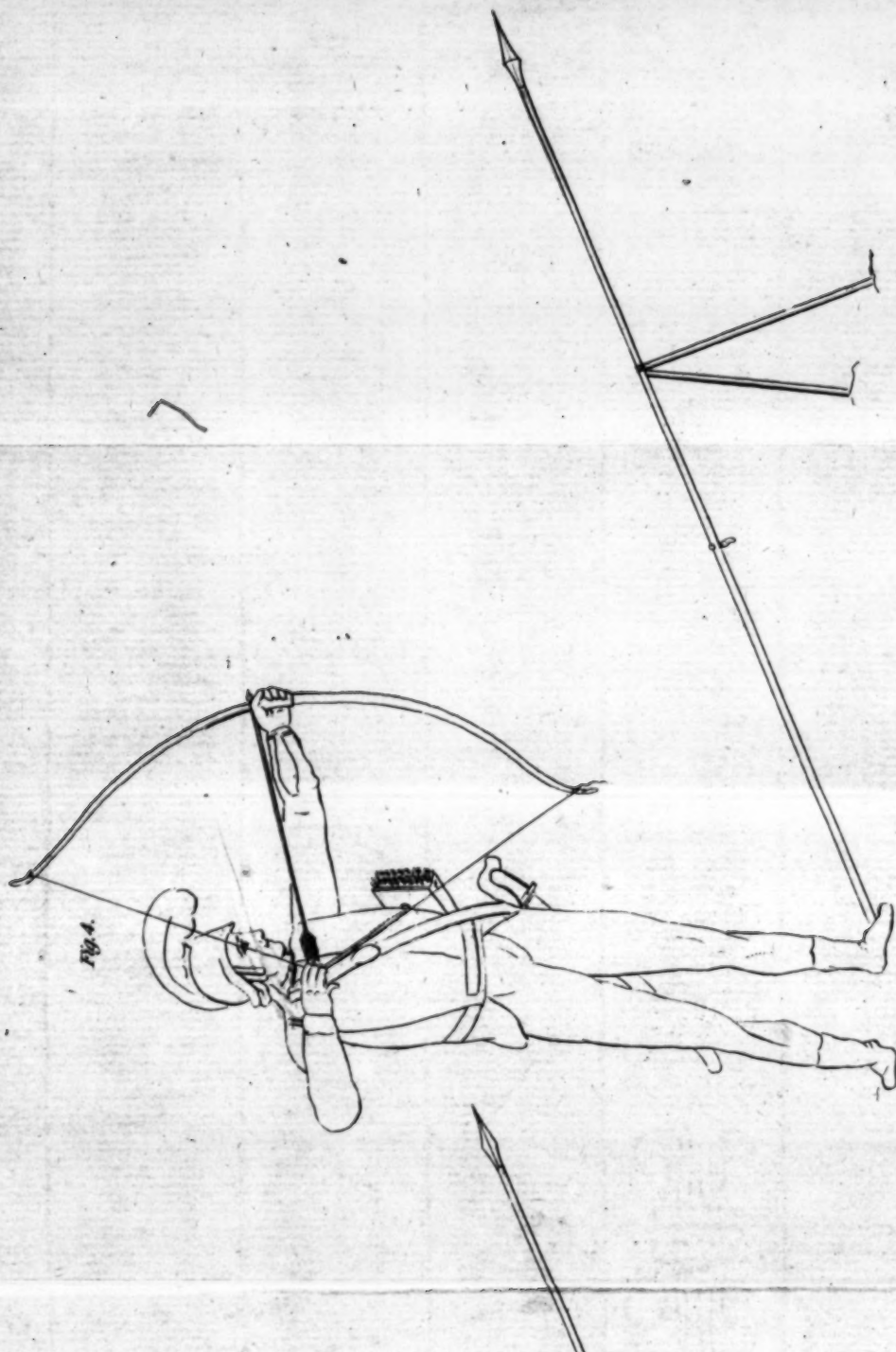


Fig. 6.







only the Sword and Bow, in order that they might act in various Situations, and in desultory Attack with the greater Rapidity and less Incumbrance, and then the Words of Order relative to the Pike are omitted.

As to the using the proof Helmet and Breast Plate, or lighter Equipment, that is referred for Consideration, whether necessary, when the Enemy does not use it, or as a Means of giving Confidence. The several Positions of the Archer are given as they appear the most simple, and naturally following each other descriptive of his general Action; but it is necessarily supposed that the Use of the Bow and Sword is previously learnt.\* As to the various Evolutions attending the forming and acting in Line and Column, as they are nearly the same with Archers as other Infantry, with the Difference only of the Words of Order, these Ma-

\* For Instruction in learning the Use of the Bow, though requisite to be more simplified, vide the second Book of Ascham's Toxophilus. The Manner of using the Sword cannot be better given, than by the Treatise on the Art of Defence on Foot with the Broad Sword and Sabre, published by Mr. Egerton.



manœuvres can be learnt from the same Means.\* The Manual is the same in Column as in the Line; in changing the Disposition in Action, the Archer carries his Pike shouldered, Bow ordered and ported in the left Hand, and when formed, the Words of Order are the two last in the second Position. When not in Action, all the Manœuvres are performed in the first Position, with the Bow returned. It is obvious that these Dispositions may be so infinitely varied, as to exceed the Bounds of the present Treatise to specify; the good Sense of those to whom it is addressed, and the general

\* The principal Manœuvres necessary to the Archers are 1st, The Open Column in Rear, Grenadiers; 2d, Open Column in Front, Light Infantry; 3d, Open Column on a central Company; 4th, Change of Position in Column; 6th, Countermarch and Change of Position; 8th, March in close Column; 11th, Change of Position; 12th, Retreat in Line; 14th, the Hollow Square; 16th, Advancing in Line, filing and charging to the Front; 17th, Retreating in Line. These Movements are selected from the Directions for Evolutions of Infantry, to which the Numbers refer, and may be learnt from the same Means. The Variations from the Words thereof, to open or close Column, result from the Necessity of the Archers in Action or second Position preserving their open Order.

Knowledge

Knowledge of military Affairs, which at present pervades the Country, will soon point out the Mode of executing all that is necessary. I shall conclude therefore with some general Observations on the Training the Archer for War, which appear of great Utility. The Use of the Bow is so generally known, from the Number who practise for Amusement, (in several Counties it has never gone entirely to decay) and from the general Tendency in the People of this Country to Archery, that it is not necessary to be very particular.

The Archer in training for War should accustom himself to the using a Bow to the full of his Powers, without incommoding him; by Practise his Strength will increase, and with it he should increase the Force of his Bow; no one should shoot in that of less Strength than requires 60lb. to draw the Arrow up, but as much stronger as can be managed. The Shafts for Training, though blunt Piles, should be of equal Weight to the Sheaf Arrow, by which Means, though he does not practise with the latter, yet he will always know what it will do in Action, which could

could not be the Case, if light Shafts were used. He should also always exercise with the Quiver on his left Side, in order to be expert in its Management, and the handling and nocking the Shaft in the same Way, as when in the Line; accustoming himself to long and strong Shooting, and to observe the Effect the Weather may have on his Shaft. The Archer, in standing, should preserve a free and erect Posture; be sure in the Nocking of his Shaft; and, in drawing, preserve the Height of his Arm, according to the intended Elevation of the Shaft, as pointed out in Fig. II. and IV. bearing strongly with the Ball of the Hand, and Force of the Bow-Arm, into the Handle, bringing the Strength of the whole Body as much as possible into Action with Steadiness, Vigour, and the greatest Celerity, loosing the Shaft in an Instant. The Aim is conducted by looking steadfast at the Mark, not at the Shaft, and such is the Direction given to the Limbs by the Eye, that with the Information derived from knowing the Nature of the Flight of his Shaft, the necessary Elevation will be soon habitually obtained. He should

should bestow particular Attention to the judging of Distance by roving; and in order to know when an Enemy comes within the Range of his Shot, I venture to suggest a Reflection which occurred to determine it, and prevent the Display of an Enemy's Line appearing nearer or farther off than in reality. When training, in shooting at the Butt, the Archer should, with his Arm extended and Bow braced, compare the Height of Objects from Head to Foot, both of Horse and Infantry at different Distances, as they appear in Comparison of the Altitude of the upper Part of the Bow, when looking over the Hand. By settling the Memory of this in the Eye, or noting the general Marks of the Variations, he can always determine, with considerable Precision, the Distance of the Enemy's Line. Of the Time that is necessary, to form an Archer, it is observed, that daily Practice for one Month, or three Times a Week for two Months, is adequate to make a sufficient Bowman for shooting in Line.

### Important Boarding for Quoting in Price.

a check for two dollars, is adequate to make a  
 little ship practice for one hour, or three times  
 is necessary, to form an Axiom, it is observed,  
 inside of the ship's line. Of the Time, that  
 determines, with considerable freedom, the Dis-  
 tance, Marks of the Variation, we can always  
 the Memory of this in the Eye, looking the Re-  
 sult, when sailing over the Line, by feeling  
 Comparison of the Change of the Rate, Part of  
 Interest of different  
 Objects from the  
 could find how  
 as the Point, the  
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 of an Enemy's Line  
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